

SEROLOGICAL STUDY OF *Leptospira* spp. IN DOGS FROM CASTANHAL, PARÁ

(ESTUDO SOROLÓGICO DE *Leptospira* spp. EM CÃES DOMICILIADOS DO MUNICÍPIO DE CASTANHAL, PARÁ)

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Canine Leptospirosis is a worldwide distributed anthroponosis caused by different serovars of *Leptospira* spp. This disease can affect humans, domestic and wild animals, including dogs. In dogs, the leptospires lodged in the kidney are eliminated in the urine, with consequent environmental contamination and transmission via direct contact with other dogs or by ingestion of contaminated food and water (ACHA & SZYFRES, 2001). The lack of animal census and reproduction control of dogs in Castanhal, associated to the high rainfall in the Amazon region, favor the survival of this bacterium in the environment, thus showing the importance of this study, which aims to assess the seroprevalence of different serovars of *Leptospira* spp. in Castanhal, Pará. We collected blood samples from 109 healthy domestic dogs, 51 males and 58 females of different ages. The samples were tested by the microscopic agglutination test (MAT) using 25 serovars of *Leptospira* (BRAZIL, 1996). It was observed that 18.35% (20/109) of the samples were positive. Of the dogs examined, 15% (7/47) were older than two years, 21% (9/43) were between 2 and 5 years old and 21% (4/19) over 5 years. Regarding gender, 25% (13/51) were male and 12% (7/58) female. According to the questionnaire given to the owners, 12% (2/17) of the seropositive dogs had access to the street accompanied by their owners, 18% (11/60) did not leave their homes while 23% (7/31) had unrestricted access to the street. The predominant serovars were Canicola 11% (12/109) and Patoc 4.6% (5/109), with titers between 100 and 3,200 IU. It was concluded that the evaluated dogs had anti-*Leptospira* antibodies thus making them a possible source of infection for humans and other animals. Furthermore, the results point out to the circulation of *Leptospira* serovars in the study area.

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